REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-11 were amended solely to improve their form. Claims 12-16 were canceled. For at least the reasons set forth below, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections as they relate to current set of claims is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)[1] as allegedly being anticipated by JP 11-144392 (Takashi).

Claims 1-5 and 7-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)[2] as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,506,825 (Gushima et al.), hereafter, "Gushima."

Claims 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,351 (Fujinami et al.).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gushima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5684784 (Iwasaki et al.).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

1. Patentability of independent claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10 over Takashi

Each of the independent claims recites, in part, that audio blocks or video blocks are recorded respectively from a leading address of a recording segment. An exemplary embodiment of this limitation is shown in Fig. 8, as follows:

recording segment = DV data recording region, multi-A1 data recording region, multi-A2 data recording region

video block = DVO, DV1

audio block = A1(0)-A1(15), A2(0)-A2(15)

leading address of recording segment = first address of DV0 immediately following the end of the preceding dummy data, first address of DV1 immediately following the end of the preceding

[1] The Office Action erroneously refers to 102(e).

[2] The Office Action erroneously refers to 102(e).

dummy data, first address of A1(0) immediately following the end of the preceding dummy data, first address of A2(0) immediately following the end of the preceding dummy data

As discussed in the present specification, this scheme allows video data and audio data to be edited easily and independently from among the digital data recorded on a disc device.

Takashi does not disclose or suggest any such scheme. Fig. 7 of Takashi shows blocks of audio data and video data that are arguably similar to the audio blocks and video blocks in the presently claimed invention, namely, BA0, BV0, BV1, BA1, BA2, BV2, etc. Fig. 7 also shows unit blocks, namely, B0, B1, B2. As stated in the Abstract of Takashi, a unit block is generated from an audio data block and a video data block. However, Takashi does not define any recording segments and does not define any leading addresses of any such recording segments. The novelty of the invention in Takashi is that the order of the audio and video data blocks change sequentially for each unit block (e.g., the audio data block comes before the video data block in B0, the video data block comes before the audio data block in B1, and so on). The advantages of this scheme are described in paragraphs [0008], [0069] and [0070] of Takashi.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the portions of Takashi highlighted by the Examiner and all remaining portions of Takashi, and cannot locate any discussion of recording segments or leading addresses of recording segments, both of which are well known terms in the art. All that Takashi shows is how to arrange a string unit blocks (each unit block being generated from an audio data block and a video data block) on a recording medium, namely, in a manner such that the order of the audio data block and the video data block alternate with each successive unit block. While a leading address might exist in Takashi's recording device, the relationship between such a leading address and the audio or video blocks is not disclosed, and thus the claimed invention cannot be anticipated or suggested by Takashi. Takashi thus fails to disclose or suggest at least the last element in each of the independent claims independent claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10. These claims are thus patentable over Takashi.

None of the remaining applied references make up for the above-noted deficiencies in Takashi.

2. Patentability of independent claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10 over Gushima

Gushima discloses an optical disk divided in a radial direction into an inner area and an outer area each having formed therein spiral or concentric tracks. Each track has a sector which has an address area, an audio signal recording area and a video signal recording area. A specific unit of audio signal and a specific unit of video signal are divided into a plurality of audio blocks and a plurality of video blocks, respectively. Each of the audio blocks and the video blocks are separated into a first group and a second group. The audio blocks and video blocks in the first group are respectively recorded into the audio signal recording area and the video signal recording area in a sector in the inner area, and the audio blocks and video blocks in the second group are respectively recorded into the audio signal recording area and the video signal recording area in a sector in the outer area.

The Examiner asserts that the last element in each of the independent claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10 is disclosed in "Fig. 3, 22-23." It is unclear what this refers to but it is presumed that the Examiner meant to refer to Figs. 3a-3e and "22a to 22d, or 23a to 23d" discussed in column 16, lines 17-18. None of the figures in Gushima include any labels for 22a, 22d, 23a or 23d, so it is unclear what the basis for the outstanding rejection is. The Examiner is requested to clarify the basis and issue a new non-final Office Action if the rejection is repeated.

Notwithstanding the uncertainty regarding the grounds of rejection, Figs. 3a-3e do not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention. Figs. 3a-3e are described, in part, on column 7, lines 3-14 and column 7, line 66 through column 8, line 12 of Gushima, which reads as follows:

> FIGS. 3a to 3d show signal formats on sectors of the optical disk 1 in an embodiment of the invention. FIG. 3a shows a signal format on a sector in the upper outer area, FIG. 3b shows a signal format on a sector in the lower inner area, FIG. 3c shows a signal format on a sector in the lower outer area, and FIG. 3d shows a signal format on a sector in the upper inner area. On each sector, sequentially from the beginning thereof, the address area ADR, four audio signal recording areas A1, A2, A3 and A4, and one video signal recording area Va, Vb, Vc or Vd are disposed with respective gap areas G1 interposed therebetween. In the last space of each sector, a gap area G2 is provided. (column 7, lines 3-14)

> In each one of the video signal recording areas Va, Vb, Vc, Vd and audio signal recording regions A1, A2, A3, A4, a preamble (Pre) is added at the beginning and a postamble (Pos) is added at the end, and also a sync signal is recorded in order to reproduce correctly the recorded audio signal and video signal. Each of the audio signal and video signal is recorded in the form of a sync block as shown in FIG. 3e. In this embodiment, each sync block is composed of 97 bytes. A sync signal SYNC (2 bytes) showing the beginning of the sync block is used for synchronism detection of the block when reproducing. An identification data ID (2 bytes) is used for distinguishing the kind of the data in the sync block. The audio or video data (DATA) is 85 bytes, and a PARITY of 8 bytes for error correction is attached at the end of the sync block. (column 7, line 66 through column 8, line 12)

Gushima's audio signal recording area and the video signal recording areas which contain audio blocks and video blocks are arguably similar to the claimed recording segments that contain the claimed audio blocks and video blocks. However, Gushima suffers from the same deficiency as Takashi in that there is no disclosure in Gushima that audio blocks are recorded respectively from the leading address of a recording segment.

The only mention of addresses at all in Gushima is address area ADR shown in Figs. 3a-3d which is sector identifying address data. In Gushima, the spiral or concentric tracks each have at least one sector which has an address area having recorded therein address information identifying the sector and an audio signal recording area for recording therein an audio signal, and a video signal recording area for recording therein a video signal. No leading address of a recording segment is identified anywhere in Figs. 3a-3d or anywhere else in Gushima. While a leading address might exist in Gushima's recording device, the relationship between such a leading address and the audio or video blocks is not disclosed, and thus the claimed invention cannot be anticipated or suggested by Gushima. Gushima thus fails to disclose or suggest at least the last element in each of the independent claims independent claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10. These claims are thus patentable over Gushima.

None of the remaining applied references make up for the above-noted deficiencies in Gushima.

3. Patentability of dependent claims

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the applied references for at least the reason that they are dependent upon allowable base claims and because they recite additional patentable elements and steps.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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